



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA

MAY 2026

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF the University of Alaska





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Executive Summary

University of Alaska (UA) is the largest provider of public postsecondary education in our state, and one of its most valued institutions. To better understand its role in Alaska’s economy, the university contracted with McKinley Research Group to analyze its economic contributions to the state. Following are key findings from the study.

Economic Contributions

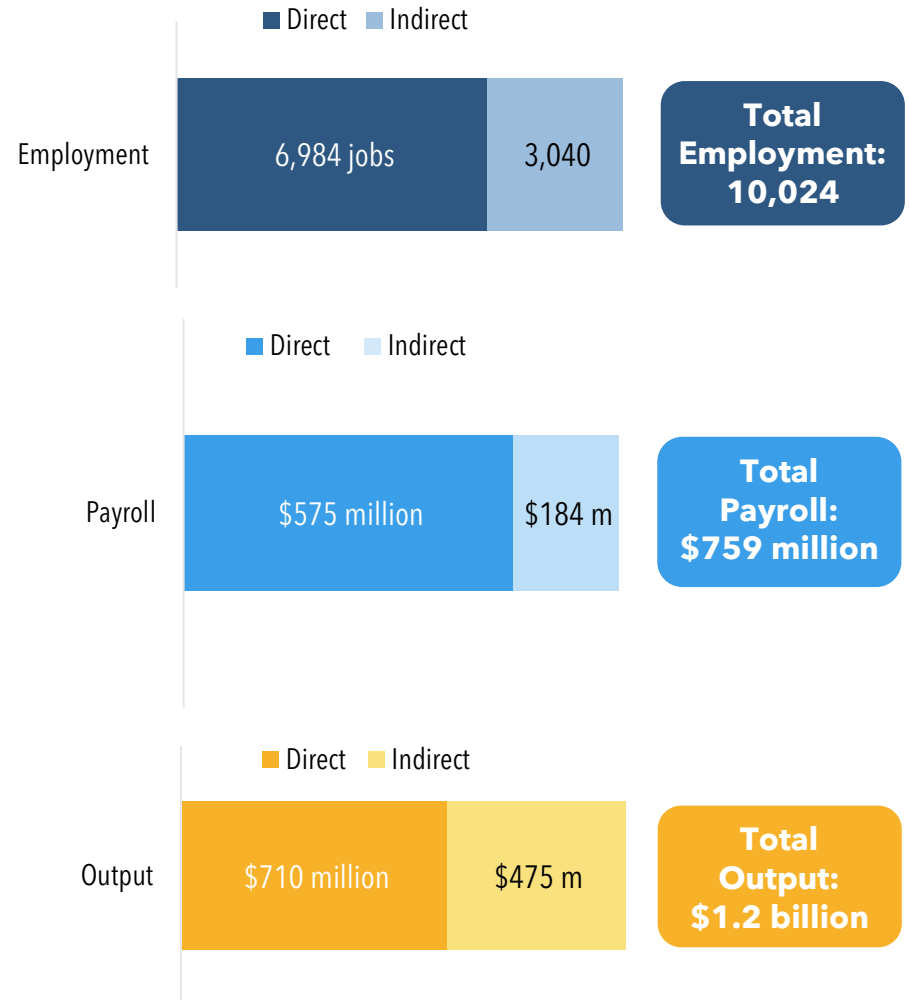
The university contributes to Alaska’s economy by training essential workforce, by spending with local businesses, and employing residents. These direct impacts support “multiplier effects” (indirect and induced impacts) when these dollars are re-spent in the economy by businesses and employees. In total, the university’s programs and services resulted in **\$1.2 billion** in total economic activity in FY2025.

The university directly spent **\$135 million** with more than **300** Alaska businesses in FY2025, which were based in 30 communities across the state.

If UA were a private employer, it would be the state’s largest. Roughly **7,000** people were employed by UA in FY2025, in full-time or part-time positions. Total payroll for FY2025 was **\$575 million**.

Adding direct and multiplier impacts, UA supported over **10,000** jobs and **\$759 million** in payroll in Alaska in FY2025. Total spending attributable to UA was about **\$710 million**, reflecting instate purchases and payroll. An additional **\$475 million** was supported through indirect and induced spending.

Alaska Economic Activity Supported by UA Employment and Spending, FY2025

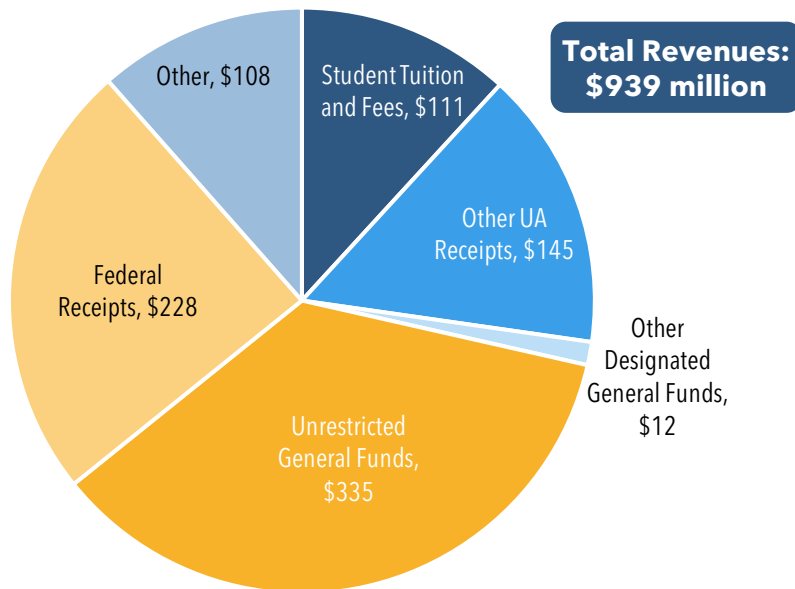


University Funding

In FY2025, UA revenue totaled **\$939 million**. Funding sources included government appropriations and revenue generated from tuition, student fees, research funding, investment income, private donations, and other sources. The State's investment of **\$335 million** allows the university to generate more than **\$600 million** in revenue from other sources such as tuition and federal research funding.

For each dollar in Unrestricted General Funds appropriated to UA in FY2025, the university raised **\$1.80** in additional revenue.

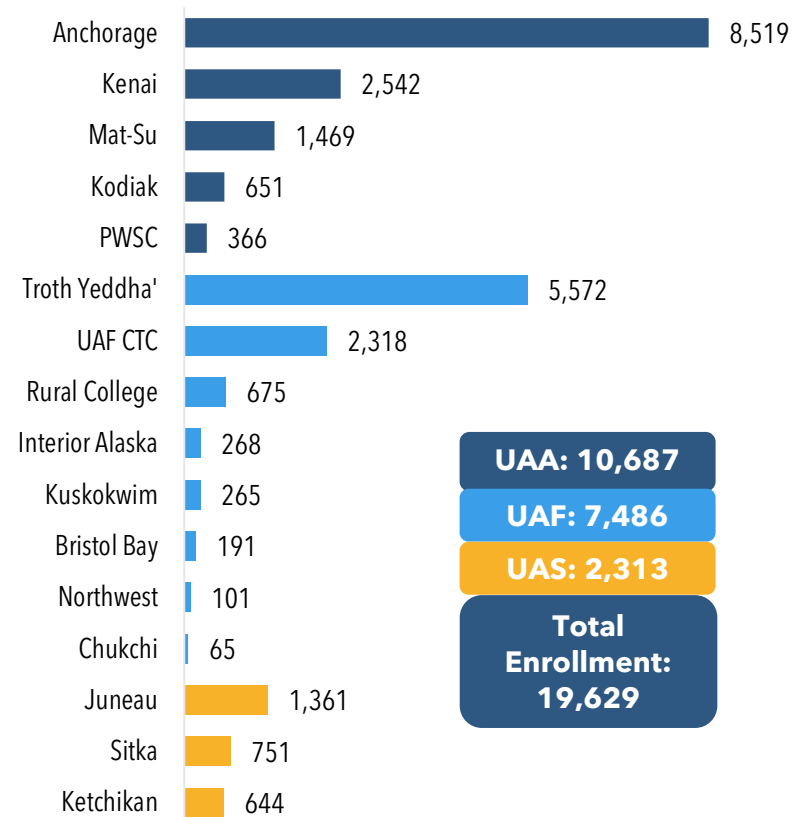
UA Revenue by Source, FY2025 (\$Millions)



Student Enrollment

Systemwide, **19,629** full- and part-time students were enrolled in the 2025 academic year, studying in **600** unique degree, certificate, or endorsement programs. Enrollment was highest at UAA, representing **10,687** students, followed by UAF with **7,486** students and UAS with **2,313** students. (Some students are enrolled at more than one campus.)

Student Enrollment by University and Campus, AY2025



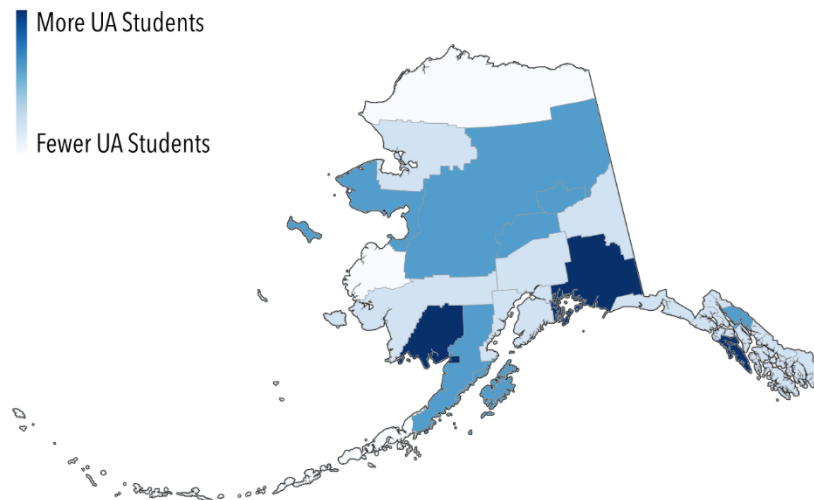
Note: Numbers add to more than total due to cross-enrollment between Universities.

Student Origin

Alaska residents made up the vast majority (85%) of students enrolled in the 2024-2025 academic year (AY2025), with another 13% coming from other U.S. states and 2% from international countries.

The most common Alaska areas of origin were Municipality of Anchorage (31%), Fairbanks North Star Borough (15%), and the Mat-Su Borough (9%).

UA Students per Capita by Alaska Community of Origin, AY2025

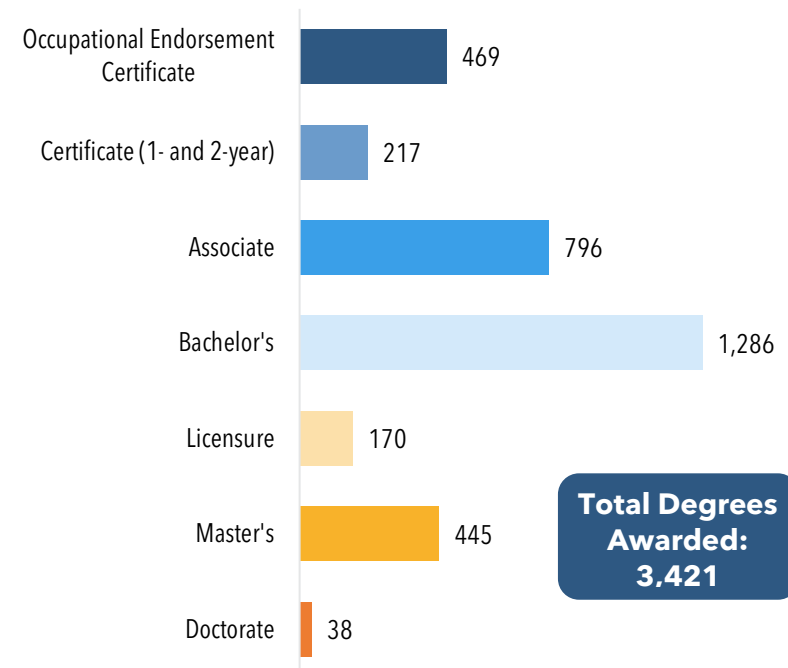


Source: University of Alaska

Degrees by Type

UA awarded 3,421 degrees in academic year 2025. The most common type of degree was Bachelor's (38%) followed by Associate (23%), Occupational Endorsement Certificate (14%), Master's (13%), 1- and 2-year Certificate (6%), Licensure (5%), and Doctorate (1%).

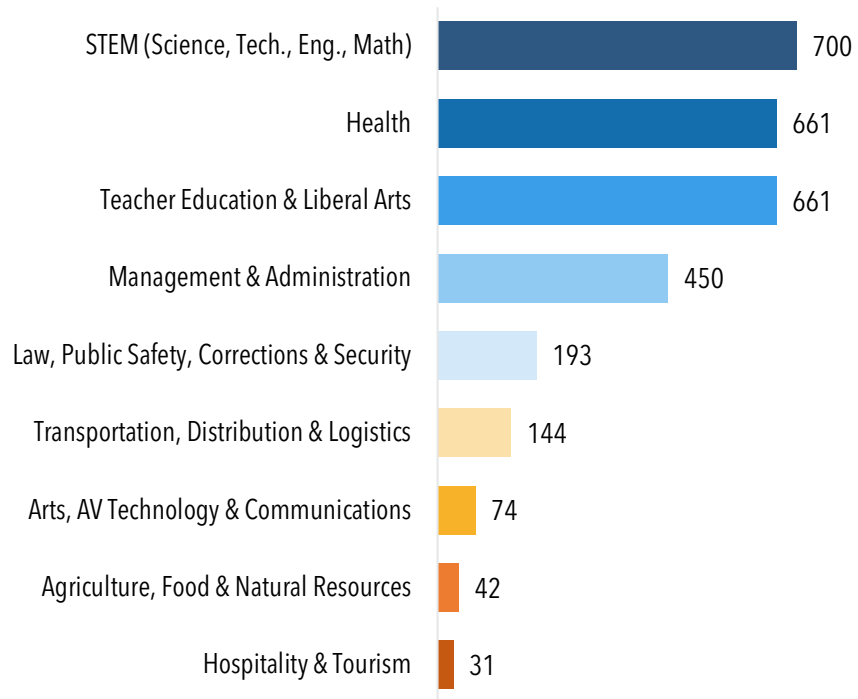
UA Degrees Awarded by Type, AY2025



Degrees by Industry Cluster

Among degrees awarded in AY2025, the top three “industry clusters” were STEM (20%), health (19%), and education and liberal arts (19%).

UA Degrees Awarded by Industry Cluster, AY2025



Note: Chart excludes 465 degrees in “other” industries.

Looking Ahead

This report is based on academic and fiscal year 2025, which was associated with a fall enrollment of 19,629. Enrollment for AY2026 showed a strong increase of 4.6%, to 20,526 students.



Source: University of Alaska

Introduction and Methodology

As Alaska's largest postsecondary institution, the University of Alaska (UA) plays a critical role in training our workforce and keeping our young people in-state. It also has a significant economic footprint, employing residents and engaging with local businesses throughout the state. The University contracted with McKinley Research Group (MRG) to measure the economic impact of UA in Academic Year 2024-25.

Information presented in this report was developed from several sources. Data and information was provided by UA in the following areas:

- Employment and payroll data
- Capital and operating budgets
- Expenditures in Alaska
- UA revenues, by source
- Student enrollment trends

Data on direct UA employment and goods and services spending with Alaska-based vendors were used to analyze the multiplier effects of the university. IMPLAN, an industry-standard input-output economic modeling tool, was used to assess the multiplier impacts of this spending on the Alaska economy. Multiplier effects are expressed in terms of annual average employment (part- and full-time jobs), labor income (wages, salaries, and employer-paid benefits), and total spending in the Alaska economy.

The study period is defined as Academic Year 2024-2025 (AY2025) beginning in Fall 2024, and the AY2025-associated fiscal year, FY2025.



Source: University of Alaska

Student Profile

UA has three separately accredited universities: University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), and University of Alaska Southeast (UAS). Each University has several community campuses contributing to diverse program offerings and attracting students from all regions of the state, nation, and beyond.

Enrollment by University

University of Alaska enrollment in Fall 2024 totaled 19,629 students. About half (54%) were enrolled at UAA, 38% at UAF, and 12% at UAS. Many UA students are cross-enrolled, meaning they take one or more courses outside their University, but within the UA system.

Table 1. Enrollment by University, AY2025

	# Students	% of Total
UAA	10,687	54%
UAF	7,486	38%
UAS	2,313	12%
Total Enrollment	19,629	

Source: University of Alaska

Note: Percentages add to more than 100% because students can be enrolled in more than one University.

Community Campus Enrollment

Most UAA students (80%) were enrolled at the Anchorage campus, 24% at Kenai Peninsula College (with locations in Soldotna and Homer), and 14% at the Matanuska-Susitna College in Palmer. Combined, Kodiak College and Prince William Sound College in Valdez represented 9% of UAA's total enrollment.

Table 2. UAA Enrollment by Campus, AY2025

UAA Campus	Enrollment	% of University
Anchorage	8,519	80%
Kenai Peninsula College	2,542	24%
Mat-Su College	1,469	14%
Kodiak Island Campus	651	6%
Prince William Sound College	366	3%

Source: University of Alaska

Note: Students can be enrolled at more than one campus.



Source: University of Alaska

UAF has several campuses serving Interior, Western, and Northern Alaska. Close to three-quarters (74%) of UAF students were enrolled at Troth Yeddha' and 31% at CTC, UAF's main campuses, in Fall 2024. Enrollment at the remaining campuses ranged from 1% to 9% of total UAF enrollment. (Note: Effective November 2024, the Interior Alaska campus merged into the UAF Community and Technical College.)

Table 3. UAF Enrollment by Community Campus, AY2025

UAF Campus	Enrollment	% of University
Troth Yeddha'	5,572	74%
UAF Community and Technical College	2,318	31%
College of Indigenous Studies		
Rural College	675	9%
Interior Alaska	268	4%
Kuskokwim	265	4%
Bristol Bay	191	3%
Northwest	101	1%
Chukchi	65	1%

Source: University of Alaska

Note: Students can be enrolled at more than one campus.



Source: University of Alaska



Source: University of Alaska

UAS has campuses in Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka representing 59%, 32%, and 28% of total UAS Fall 2024 enrollment, respectively.

Table 4. UAS Enrollment by Community Campus, AY2025

UAS Campus	Enrollment	% of University
Juneau	1,361	59%
Ketchikan	644	28%
Sitka	751	32%

Source: University of Alaska

Note: Students can be enrolled at more than one campus.

Degrees by Type

UA awarded 3,421 degrees in AY2025. Bachelor's degrees were the most common degree type (38%) followed by Associate (23%), OEC (14%), and Master's (13%).

Table 5. Degrees Awarded by Type, AY2025

	Degrees Awarded	% of Total
Bachelor's	1,286	38%
Associate	796	23%
Occupational Endorsement Certificate	469	14%
Master's	445	13%
Certificate (1- and 2-year)	217	6%
Licensure	170	5%
Doctorate	38	1%
UA System	3,421	100%

Source: University of Alaska



Source: University of Alaska

Degrees by Industry Cluster

Among degrees awarded in AY2025, the top three "industry clusters" were STEM (20%), health (19%), and education and liberal arts (19%).

Table 6. Degrees Awarded by Industry Cluster, AY2025

	Degrees Awarded	% of Total
STEM (Science, Tech., Eng., Math)	700	20%
Health	661	19%
Education & Liberal Arts	661	19%
Management & Administration	450	13%
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security	193	6%
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	144	4%
Arts, AV Technology & Communications	74	2%
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	42	1%
Hospitality & Tourism	31	1%
Other	465	14%
UA System	3,421	100%

Source: University of Alaska

Full-Time versus Part-Time Enrollment

Of total enrollment, 58% of AY2025 students were enrolled part-time, and 42% were enrolled full-time. UAF and UAA had similar shares of part-time students (55% and 56%, respectively); this compares to 73% among UAS students.

Table 7. Full-Time versus Part-Time Enrollment, AY2025

	UA System	UAA	UAF	UAS
Full-time	42%	44%	45%	27%
Part-time	58%	56%	55%	73%

Source: University of Alaska

Housing

Systemwide, 11% of all students lived on campus in AY2025, including 17% of UAF students, 10% of UAS students, and 7% of UAA students.

Table 8. Students Living on Campus by University, AY2025

	Students in Campus Housing	% of Total Enrollment
UAA	722	7%
UAF	1,237	17%
UAS	233	10%
UA System	2,192	11%

Source: University of Alaska

Student Origin

Student origin is where the student resided at the time of enrollment. In Fall 2024, 85% of students were in Alaska, 13% were out-of-state, and 2% were international. Alaskan enrollees were most commonly from Anchorage (31%), Fairbanks (15%), and Mat-Su (9%). Students came from across the state, representing almost 30 different Boroughs/Census Areas.

Table 9. Student Origin, AY2025

	Enrollment	% of Total
Alaska	16,596	85%
Municipality of Anchorage	6,136	31%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	2,981	15%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1,745	9%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	1,130	7%
City & Borough of Juneau	849	5%
All other Alaska communities	3,755	18%
Other U.S. States	2,655	13%
Washington	318	2%
California	298	2%
All other U.S. states	2,039	9%
International	378	2%

Source: University of Alaska

Age and Race

In Fall 2024, over half (56%) of students were younger than 25. UAA students were more likely to be under 25 (61%) than UAF (52%) or UAS students (50%). The median age was 23 among all students, and fairly consistent (23 to 25) across Universities.

Table 10. Student Age, AY2025

	UA System	UAA	UAF	UAS
Younger than 25	56%	61%	52%	50%
Median age	23 years	23 years	24 years	25 years

Source: University of Alaska

Over half (54%) of students identified as White, 17% as Alaska Native/American Indian, 10% as Asian, 4% as Black, and 1% as Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander.

Table 11. Student Race, AY2025

Race	% of Total Enrollment
White	54%
Alaska Native /American Indian	17%
Asian	10%
Black	4%
Hawaiian Native/ Pacific Islander	1%
Other/Unknown	13%

Source: University of Alaska

Note: Race is self-reported by students.

Staying Employed and In-State

One of UA's most important roles in Alaska is providing opportunities for graduates to find work in-state. According to a 2023 *Alaska Economic Trends* report on the Class of 2005, 90% of graduates from Alaska postsecondary institutions remained and worked in Alaska right after graduation, and 75% stayed long-term.¹ Among those that went outside for college, only 25% returned to settle in Alaska.²

Another report studied the roughly 27,000 UA students who graduated from programs associated with high-demand industries between 2013 and 2023. (The project was a joint effort between UA and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.) Among other findings, the study found that 76% of Bachelor's and higher degree graduates were employed in Alaska within one year of graduating, along with 82% of Certificate/Associate graduates.³



Source: University of Alaska

¹ Robinson, D. and Warren, J. (2023, February). The Class of 2005, 15 Years Later. *Alaska Economic Trends Magazine*, Pages 4-9.

² Ibid.

³ UA's *Impact on Alaska's Workforce: An In-Depth Analysis of 11 Key Industries*. <https://www.alaska.edu/research/wd/reports.php#:~:text=Education%20pays%20%E2%80%9494%20people,and%20Workforce%20Development>

UA Revenue and Budget

The University of Alaska funds its operations through a mix of state and federal support and University-generated revenue. These funds pay faculty and staff wages and benefits, purchase goods and services, support facility operations, and pay for capital projects.

Operating Budget

As a state agency, part of the University's funding comes from State Unrestricted General Funds, which can be appropriated by the Alaska Legislature for any purpose. The University generates additional revenue through tuition and fees, research funding, grants, investment income, donations, and endowments, as well as contracts with federal, private, and local entities.

REVENUE

University of Alaska revenue totaled \$939 million in FY2025.

State of Alaska **Unrestricted General Fund** revenues represented over one-third (\$335 million; 36%) of UA's revenues in FY2025. This equates to roughly \$17,000 per student.

Funding in FY2025 included \$268 million in **Designated General Funds** (DGF). DGF revenues include student tuition and fees and UA-generated revenues including housing, food services, bookstore, rec center fees, and investment income.

In FY2025, **federal funding** totaled \$228 million, representing 24% of revenues. Another \$108 million (12% of total) was generated from **other sources** included grants and contracts from corporations, individuals, and local governments.

Table 12. UA Revenue by Source, FY2025

	Revenue	% of Total
Unrestricted General Funds	\$335m	36%
Designated General Funds	\$268m	29%
Student Tuition and Fees	\$111m	12%
Other UA Receipts	\$145m	15%
Other Designated General Funds	\$12m	1%
Federal Receipts	\$228m	24%
Other	\$108m	12%
Total Revenue	\$939m	100%

Source: University of Alaska

Notes: "Other" includes private grants and contracts from sources outside of state and federal government and Mental Health Trust Authority receipts.

RETURN ON STATE INVESTMENT

The FY2025 State of Alaska unrestricted general fund appropriation allowed UA to generate over \$600 million from other sources – for every dollar invested by the state, the University generated \$1.80 in additional revenue.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES BY UNIVERSITY

Over half (56%) of UA's total FY2025 budget was allocated to UAF, 33% to UAA, and 5% to UAS. A combined 6% was allocated to the UA System Offices and other enterprise entities.

Table 13. UA Operating Expenditures by University, FY2025

	Expenditure	% of Total
UAF	\$527m	56%
UAA	\$314m	33%
UAS	\$48m	5%
UA System Office	\$44m	5%
Other	\$6m	1%
Total	\$939m	100%

Source: University of Alaska

OPERATING EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

UA's largest expenditure category in FY2025 was related to instruction and student support (39%), followed by research (24%), institutional support (15%); and physical plant (12%). The "other" category (10%) includes auxiliary and public services.

Table 14. UA Operating Expenditures by Category, FY2025

	Expenditure	% of Total
Instruction/Student-Related	\$369m	39%
Research	\$222m	24%
Institutional Support	\$142m	15%
Physical Plant	\$112m	12%
Other	\$94m	10%
Total	\$939m	100%

Source: University of Alaska



Source: University of Alaska

Capital Appropriations

UA's state-funded appropriations include capital funding requested by the Governor-appointed Board of Regents. UA has prioritized funding deferred maintenance over the last several years.⁴ In FY2025, \$39 million was appropriated for capital projects across the UA system including \$24 million in State-funded appropriations and \$15 million in other funding. Over half (53%) went to deferred maintenance, while 47% was spent on new construction.

Capital appropriations have ranged between \$33 million and \$52 million over the last several years. Projects that are appropriated in one fiscal year frequently have spending impacts in subsequent years.

Table 15. UA Capital Appropriations, FY2023-FY2025

	State Funding	Other Funding*	Total Appropriation
FY2023	\$48m	\$4m	\$52m
FY2024	\$24m	\$9m	\$33m
FY2025	\$24m	\$15m	\$39m

Source: University of Alaska

*Other funding comes from federal, private, and University-generated receipts.



Source: University of Alaska

⁴ University of Alaska. 2025. Proposed FY27 Operating Budget.

UA Spending in Alaska

This section describes UA's in-state employment and spending on payroll, goods, and services.

Employment and Payroll

Systemwide, the University directly employed nearly 7,000 workers and paid \$575 million in wages and benefits in FY2025. UAF accounted for the largest share of both employment (51%) and wages (52%). UAA accounted for over one-third of employment (39%) and wages (36%), while UAS represented 7% of employment and 6% of wages.

Table 16. Direct Employment and Payroll by University, FY2025

	Employment	Total Payroll
UAF	3,588	\$299m
UAA	2,696	\$206m
UAS	454	\$35m
UA System Office	246	\$34m
Total	6,984	\$575m

Source: University of Alaska

EMPLOYMENT BY TYPE

UA employment can be characterized in three broad categories: faculty, staff, and student. Faculty employment includes academic and teaching positions such as professors, instructors, and researchers. Staff employment includes administration, IT, maintenance, and other support functions. Student employment covers on-campus positions such as bookstore clerks, student ambassadors, and resident advisors.

In FY2025, staff represented 53% of systemwide employment; faculty represented 28%; and students represented 19%. These figures varied slightly by University, with faculty representing a larger share at UAS (38% of employment) and UAA (35%) compared with UAF (23%). The UA System Office employs no faculty; it is comprised mostly of staff (91%).

Table 17. Employment Type by University, FY2025

	Staff	Faculty	Student
UAF	54%	23%	23%
UAA	50%	35%	15%
UAS	45%	38%	17%
UA System Office	91%	-	9%
Total	53%	28%	19%

Source: University of Alaska

Goods and Services

The University spends on a variety of goods and services to support its operations each year. In FY2025, UA spent \$135 million with over 300 vendors based in 30 Alaska communities. Examples of out-of-state purchases include software packages, services from specialized contractors, and equipment that is unavailable in Alaska.

SPENDING BY REGION

The vast majority of UA's in-state purchases in FY2025 were from vendors in Anchorage (41%) or Fairbanks/North Pole (40%). Other purchases were spread throughout the state, including Palmer/Wasilla (8%), Southeast (4%), Kenai Peninsula (2%), Kodiak (1%), and Nome (1%), among other locations.

Table 18. UA Spending with Alaska Vendors by Location, FY2025

	Spending	% of Total
Anchorage	\$56m	41%
Fairbanks/North Pole	\$54m	40%
Palmer/Wasilla	\$11m	8%
Southeast	\$5m	4%
Kenai Peninsula	\$3m	2%
Kodiak	\$2m	1%
Nome	\$1m	1%
Other Alaska communities	\$3m	2%
Total	\$135m	100%

Source: University of Alaska

⁵ Includes coal purchase for UAF power plant.

SPENDING BY CATEGORY

UA purchases goods and services from a wide variety of Alaska businesses. UA's largest spending categories in FY2025 were maintenance and construction (31%), utilities⁵ (24%), and professional services (11%). Other significant spending categories include telecommunications, food services and catering, and partnerships, each representing 7% of total spending.

Table 19. UA Spending with Alaska Vendors by Category, FY2025

Spending Category	Spending	% of Total
Maintenance & Construction	\$42m	31%
Utilities	\$32m	24%
Professional Services	\$14m	11%
Telecommunications & IT	\$9m	7%
Food Services & Catering	\$9m	7%
Partnerships	\$9m	7%
Vehicles, Equipment, & Related Fuel	\$5m	4%
Facility & Equipment Rental	\$5m	4%
Supplies	\$4m	3%
Advertising, Marketing, & Public Relations	\$3m	2%
All other spending	\$3m	2%
Total	\$135m	100%

Source: University of Alaska

Economic Impacts

University payroll and spending on goods and services have a substantial impact on the state’s economy, defined at three levels.

Direct impacts: UA employment and payroll, and UA spending on goods and services.

Indirect impacts: jobs, payroll, and economic activity supported by vendors providing goods and services to UA.

Induced impacts: jobs, payroll, and economic activity supported when University employees and employees of vendors doing business with UA spend their payroll dollars in the economy.

Indirect and induced impacts are often referred to as “multiplier effects.”



Source: University of Alaska



Source: University of Alaska

UA’s direct employment and payroll described in the previous chapter supported an additional 3,040 jobs and \$184 million in payroll in FY2025. Adding direct to indirect and induced impacts, UA’s impacts totaled 10,024 jobs and \$759 million in payroll in the Alaska economy.

Total spending attributable to UA was \$710 million, reflecting in-state purchases plus payroll. An additional \$475 million was supported through indirect and induced spending, resulting in \$1.2 billion in total economic activity.

Table 20. Economic Activity Supported by UA Employment and Spending, FY2025

	Employment	Payroll	Total Economic Activity
Direct	6,984	\$575m	\$710m
Indirect + Induced	3,040	\$184m	\$475m
Total Impact	10,024	\$759m	\$1.2 billion

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